



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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John A. Stephen
Commissioner

Public Affairs
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Director

JOHN A. STEPHEN

John Stephen is a 1980 graduate of Trinity High School and life-long resident of Manchester, New Hampshire. He attended the University of NH, where he earned a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration in 1984 from the Whittemore School of Business and Economics.

Stephen then matriculated to Detroit College of Law, part of Michigan State University, and graduated Cum Laude with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1987. He was the Managing Editor of Law Review.

Upon his graduation from law school in 1987, Stephen began his legal career as a Law Clerk for United States Federal District Court Judge Martin F. Loughlin.

After serving one year as a Law Clerk, Stephen became an Assistant Hillsborough County Attorney where he prosecuted numerous misdemeanor and felony crimes. In March of 1992, he became an Assistant Attorney General with the New Hampshire Department of Justice. In that capacity, he was the Director of the DWI Unit and was responsible for the state-wide supervision of DWI-related cases. In addition to his duties as Director of the DWI Unit, Stephen prosecuted homicide crimes and regularly appeared before the New Hampshire Supreme Court on appellate issues involving criminal law.

In 1998, Governor Jeanne Shaheen appointed Stephen as Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Safety. Governor Craig Benson re-appointed him to the position in March of 2003. He assisted the Commissioner in overseeing the Divisions of State Police, Motor Vehicles, Safety Services and Fire Standards and Training. He also was directly responsible for the Division of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, including the E-911 Bureau, and served as the Commissioner's designee on numerous Commissions and Committees.

In April of 2003, Stephen was appointed by Commissioner Richard Flynn as the State of New Hampshire's Coordinator of Homeland Security. In that capacity he acted as a liaison between the US Department of Homeland Security and the state, county, and local governments in New Hampshire. Stephen was also the architect behind the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Safety and the Department of Health and Human Services, consolidating emergency preparedness responsibilities and centralizing hospital bioterrorism funding.

In October of 2003 Governor Benson appointed Stephen as Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services for a four-year term. As Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, he is charged with ensuring the health and well being of New Hampshire's residents, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable citizens. Administrative responsibility includes Medicaid, elder services, financial assistance, mental health, disabilities, drug and alcohol, public health, child support, juvenile justice services and child protective services.

Stephen has also lectured nationally on various legal and homeland security-related topics.

Stephen is a co-author of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration course on vehicular homicide entitled *Lethal Weapon*. He has also authored a number of books, including the *New Hampshire DWI Manual*, *Officer's Search and Seizure Handbook*, *Officer's Arrest Handbook* and co-authored *Officer's DUI Handbook*, *Investigation and Prosecution of Vehicular Homicide/DWI*, and *Courtroom Survival: Making the Traffic Officer a Powerful Witness*, all available through LEXIS® Law Publishing.

Stephen is married and has two children.